

LOCKDOWN MAHI: ACTIVISM IN ART

Protest Art

"Here's the truth: art is a political act. Creating it is a political act. Consuming it is a political act. Writing is a political act. Reading is a political act.

Art is one of the things that makes us human- it's how we process the world, it's how we show our view of the world to other people, it's how we learn about other's experiences and explore ideas and think about what could be. Art is how we go beyond our own experiences. Art can be an escape from the horrors of the world, or a testament to them. Art is as necessary as AIR." - [Redheadedgirl](#)




This term we will begin a new topic about **activism in art**. There are many different social and political issues that art has sought to address throughout the years including racism, gender equality, LGBTQ+ rights and many more. Art can be used to raise awareness and as a form of protest.

Activist art is a term used to describe art that is grounded in the act of 'doing' and addresses political or social issues. You can read more about activist art here: <https://www.tate.org.uk/art/art-terms/a/activist-art>

You may already be aware of activism in art through popular music. Some well-known examples are: [Where is the love?](#) by the Black Eyed Peas and [Born This Way](#) by Lady Gaga. *Can you think of any others?*

MAHI 1: Research

Below are some videos that relate to activist art. Watch the videos and answer the questions below.

		
<p>Spoken word poetry by Ngā Hinepūkōrero at the Black Lives Matter march in Auckland 2020 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C5tjP4yndjc</p>	<p>Black by Dave live at the Brits 2020 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mXLS2lzZSdg</p>	<p>Artist Shahak Shapira's "Yolocaust" project https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mjiv_X5re4g</p>
<p>What is happening in the video?</p> <p>What social/political issue is addressed?</p> <p>What does it make you think about or feel?</p>	<p>What is happening in the video?</p> <p>What social/political issue is addressed?</p> <p>What does it make you think about or feel?</p>	<p>What is happening in the video?</p> <p>What social/political issue is addressed?</p> <p>What does it make you think about or feel?</p>

MAHI 2: Protest signs



A protest is a public expression of objection, disapproval or dissent towards an idea or action, typically a political one. It is very common to attend a protest with a sign. These often feature powerful slogans! Sometimes they even come with a sense of humour.

Here are some examples of protest signs from history. Can you tell what issues these people were protesting?



MAHI 2: Protest sign BINGO

Below are 16 social and political issues, some are from history and some continue to be relevant. Your mahi is to complete the bingo board by inserting a photograph of a protest including a protest sign related to each of these issues. The first one has been given to help you.

Poverty 	Racism	Suffrage	Animal rights
Climate change	Māori land disputes	Water Pollution	LGBTQ+ Rights
Anti-war	Education	Women's Rights	Refugees
Mining/oil drilling	Segregation	Polynesian panthers	Nuclear Free

Mahi 3: Portrait of a protester

Select a photo of someone protesting. You may choose one of your photos from Mahi 2 or find another image of someone attending a protest. Check out the sketches of BLM protesters below by Gabriel Campanario

You may choose to draw a portrait of an activist instead. Some examples include Greta Thunberg, Pania Newton, Malala Yousafzai, Martin Luther King Jr, Marsha P Johnson, Jane Goodall etc.

